

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

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SUBJECT Military Activity; Organization of
Mountain Troops

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1. Military activities and preparations in Hungary have greatly increased since December 1948. New military vehicles (troop cars, trucks, field-vehicles, light armored vehicles, et cetera) have been arriving in Hungary from Czechoslovakia. The Soviet Union continues to deliver to Hungary various artillery installations and guns.
2. Hungarian Army non-commissioned officers formerly held prisoner in the West and retired non-coms of the classes of 1916 to 1923 are being recalled to active duty where they undergo a three to four month political indoctrination training. Their services are indispensable to the new Hungarian Army for the present, as the newly appointed officers themselves are totally untrained and incapable of any specialized work in the Army.
3. Many of the new officers are being selected from reliable Communists formerly employed in various businesses and industries. After three to six months in a military academy they are assigned to the troops as either second or first lieutenants.
4. In January 1949 approximately 150 younger officers and thirty staff officers departed for the Soviet Union for special training. This is the third such group to go to the Soviet Union. The number of Russian "indoctrination officers and political control officers" still in the Hungarian Army cannot be estimated, although it is known that there are not many left, since their activities have been taken over by the Hungarian Communist Party.
5. In December 1948 political officers of the Hungarian Army discovered a plot among Hungarian officers in Szeged to flee across the border to Yugoslavia. More than 10 of these officers have disappeared, and it is rumored that they were sent to the Soviet Union.
6. Plans are being made to organize a large unit of mountain troops. This unit is scheduled to be organized by this summer. Since there are no mountainous areas along the Hungarian borders which cannot be normally defended by infantry or motorized troops, informant is of the opinion that these troops are being prepared solely for operations beyond

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Hungary's border. This mountain troop unit is being formed in Borzon, Matra, and the Mecsek Hills.

7. The mountain troops are to be organized as follows:

- a. Six battalions in a brigade (plus an artillery regiment) of 4,000 men (in peace-time only 3,000 men). The strength of this brigade can be doubled during mobilization (two brigades and 8,000 men including the artillery).
- b. Organized units of a mountain sharpshooters battalion: three rifle companies (consisting of three rifle-squads) and a heavy weapons squad. The heavy weapons squad consists of two troops equipped with 60 mm. mine throwers and three troops with light machine guns. There is also a "direct battalion group" consisting of one squad of sappers, one reconnaissance squad, one medium-heavy mine thrower company, and one intelligence (communications) squad.

c. The mountain artillery regiment will consist of:

Two light mountain howitzer battalions
One heavy motorized mine-thrower battalion
One motorized medium howitzer battalion
One "flak" battalion
One heavy anti-tank gun company
One light rocket-thrower company

d. The mountain brigade will also contain:

One heavy sapper battalion
One intelligence (communications) battalion, partially motorized squads and other organized units.

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